

Supporting Client Outcomes



- Provided training and technical assistance to licensed child placing agencies that provide foster care
- Developed recruitment brochure in English and Spanish detailing the process of becoming a licensed foster home
- Developed brochure in English and Spanish designed to assist foster parents through the licensing investigation process
- Participated in ongoing meetings with tribal representatives in an effort to improve training and communications activities to all Native American staff and foster parents
- Produced *Español en Vivo* live webcast providing information and training to Hispanic foster parents conducted entirely in Spanish
- Developed Spanish-language foster parent website

News Advisory, March 2004
Performance Report, 2003

Objective: Adequate quality resources are available for foster care, behavior rehabilitation services and adoption

Measured by: Availability of minority foster homes

Securing homes in which children have the opportunity to feel a sense of belonging and identity through similarities of culture and ethnicity has long been a priority for the Children's Administration.

Children in out-of-home placement often experience a wide range of alienating effects from the loss of their homes, families and cultural identities. The administration is committed to lessening the negative impact of out-of-home placement on children who come into care with specific needs related to ethnicity, culture or language.

Through increased recruitment and retention efforts, the administration strives to license homes in which children can look and feel a part of something familiar and where the foster parents are aware of needs specific to diverse groups of children.

In Fiscal Year 2003, increased efforts were undertaken to ensure that Native American homes were in compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act. A number of homes that were previously self-reported as Native American homes, could no longer be recognized as such. At one time Native American homes could receive that designation simply through the self report of one or both foster parents. Statute mandates that either one or both foster parents must show verification of affiliation in a Native American tribe in order to be licensed as an Indian foster home.

The reduction in the number of minority foster homes was due largely in part to concerted efforts to increase compliance with Indian Child Welfare mandate.

Whether it is through the interchange of a common spoken language, participation in an intergenerational ceremony or the preparation of a familiar favorite food, diverse homes can do much to restore a sense of security to the children who need it the most.

Minority Homes Available - State

